BOOTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1919

— OF THE —

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Bootle Rural District Council.

March, 1920.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1919.

The Birth Rate — 16.25 — is the lowest for the last 10 years—probably the lowest on record. There are signs that it may improve this year.

The Death Rate — 17.48 — is the highest for the last 10 years, and more than double that of 1914. This may be accounted for partly by the fact that a larger number of transferable deaths occurred than is usual, largely of old people in asylums, hospitals and institutions, partly by the severe outbreak of influenza during the first quarter of the year, which was responsible for the death of an unusually large number of young people, and perhaps partly by the fact that the vitality of many people was lowered by the nerve strain of the war and the shortage of some of the most nourishing food stuffs.

The Infant Mortality Rate — 53.19 — is higher than for some years, but is fairly good, even for a rural district.

Infectious Diseases.—The most important of these was an epidemic of influenza (which is not notifiable) during the first quarter of the year, following a similar outbreak during the last quarter of 1918. During these six months 32 deaths from the disease were notified and these occurred amongst people in the prime of life between 15 and 45 and were generally due to a virulent form of pneumonia. In this district no people over 50 died, and in my experience very few had the complaint, or if they had it was in a mild form. It is difficult to give any intelligent explanation of why the elderly people escaped. Possibly why the younger people succumbed to the disease may have been that they did not knock off work soon enough. One of the most important things in influenza is to get into bed as soon as possible, and stop there till your doctor tells you to get out.

Tuberculosis, 7. A larger number than for two years, but as three of the cases occurred in one house and another was introduced from London, the cases shew a decline on previous years.

Diphtheria — Only one case, which was probably introduced.

Measles. — A large number of cases — chiefly in two parishes which had not experienced the disease for some years —and without any mortality.

Water Supply is good in most parts of the district, but it is advisable that Eskdale Green should be provided with a better supply than at present exists.

Rivers and Streams.—The pollution of these is nominal.

Drainage and Sewerage. — The various public sewers throughout the district have worked well.

Closet Accommodation and Scavenging are satisfactory.

Schools are visited from time to time, and the sanitary conditions are generally good.

Food (a) Milk supply is ample, and in my experience of good quality. It is all produced within the district. The Dairies are well kept.

(b) *Other Foods.*—No unsound food has been found.

(c) *Sale of Food and Drugs Act.* — This is administered by the police.

Common Lodging Houses. — None.

Housing.—There is now no overcrowding, and the character of most of the houses in the district is good.

Tuberculosis.—Seven cases notified. The premises are visited and instructions given to occupiers. Should a death occur the premises are disinfected. There is an Open Air Shelter at Bootle and a Dispensary at Millom.

Workshops, &c. — Forty-one are on the register, and have been regularly inspected.

I append Table of Statistics, and am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. A. JOHNSTON,

M.O.H. Bootle R.D.C.

Table I.—Vital Statistics of District during 1919.

Population	Births.		Net Deaths belonging to the District.			
	Number.	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		Number Registered in District, 82	Rate
			Number.	Rate per 1000 Net Births.		
Estimated for Death Rate 5432, for Birth Rate 5659.	92	16·25	5	53·19		15·09
					Transferred 12. Total 94	17·48

Table II.—Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during 1919.

SCARLET FEVER	8
DIPHTHERIA	1
TUBERCULOSIS—LUNGS	7
MEASLES	89
PNEUMONIA	7

Area of district, 92,322 acres. Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,149 ; at No. of persons per house, 4·9.
Isolation Hospital—Millom and Bootle Joint Hospital. Total available beds, 44.

TABLE III.—Causes of Death in Bootle Rural District, 1919.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
(Civilians Only). ALL CAUSES.	31	51
1 Enteric Fever		
2 Small Pox		
3 Measles...		
4 Scarlet Fever		
5 Whooping Cough		
6 Diphtheria and Croup...		
7 Influenza	6	7
8 Erysipelas		
9 Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2
10 Tuberculosis Meningitis		
11 Other Tuberculosis Diseases		
12 Cancer, malignant disease	3	8
13 Rheumatic Fever	1	
14 Meningitis		
15 Organic Heart Disease	2	8
16 Bronchitis	3	3
17 Pneumonia (all forms)...	1	2
18 Other Respiratory Diseases		3
19 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...		
20 Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	
21 Cirrhosis of Liver		
21A Alcoholism		
22 Nephritis & Bright's Disease	2	3
23 Puerperal Fever		
24 Parturition, apart from puerperal fever		
25 Congenital Debility, &c.		3
26 Violence, apart from Suicide... ...	1	
27 Suicide		
28 Other Defined Diseases	10	15
29 Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	1	
Special Causes (included above)		
Cerebro-spinal fever		
Poliomyelitis		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age ...	2	4
TOTAL BIRTHS	45	47
Legitimate	42	47
Illegitimate	3	
POPULATION FOR DEATH-RATE	5,432	
,, BIRTH-RATE	5,659	

Table IV.—Infant Mortality.—1919

CAUSE OF DEATH:

Marasmus	3	Rate per 1000
Bronchitis	1	
Intestinal Obstruction	1	
	Total 5	53·19

DEATHS:

Legitimate 2. Illegitimate 3.